

FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM AMEMBASSY, GUATEMALA
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DESP. NO.

April 2, 1954

Action Assigned to

Action Taken

71 File Dept. Use Only	ACTION OLI-10 REC'D 4/1	DEPT. IN O OTHER	DC/R-2 ARA-2 UNA-4 USIA-8 ARMY-35 NAVY-39 A.R. 24 OSD-2 CIA-13 OCB-1	4-8-54
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SUBJECT: Joint Weeka No. 13 for State, Army and Air Departments, from S.

Action Office Symbol

SUMMARY

Name of Officer

President Arbenz this week publicly claimed a "great moral victory" for Guatemala at the Caracas Conference, saying that the Guatemalan delegation had defeated the "feudal and imperialist forces which had unfurled the banner of anti-Communism to maintain the oppression of the Latin American peoples." He made this statement from the balcony of the National Palace where, flanked by high government officials and José Manuel FORTUNY, the ranking Guatemalan Communist, he reviewed a Communist-inspired victory rally to welcome Foreign Minister Guillermo TORIELLO home from Caracas.

Meanwhile, as part of President Arbenz' program for normalizing relations with other Latin American countries, the Foreign Ministry announced the resumption of diplomatic relations with Venezuela, suspended since 1948, and the granting of an appointment for a new Costa Rican Ambassador, a post vacant since June, 1953.

The PAR's "Unity" Congress was partially successful in restoring harmony to the largest administration party. Julio ESTRADA de la Hoz was reelected Secretary General and Humberto GONZALEZ Juarez, the President's Private Secretary, consolidated his position as the party's strong man.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Toriello Returns "In Triumph" From Caracas Conference: Continuing the Communist and leftist campaign to give the impression of a Guatemalan victory at the Caracas Conference (Weeka 12), a crowd of 2000 drawn mostly from Communist-controlled labor and "mass" organizations turned out at the airport on March 29 to greet Foreign Minister Toriello on his return from Caracas and led him in a triumphal procession through the capital's streets to the National Palace.

The welcoming address there was given by Carlos FIGUEROA, an avowed Communist, and in his reply Toriello told the rally that the "Dulles Plan" (i.e. the anti-Communist resolution) had been defeated by the "peoples of the world, wearied of so many outrages."

JChill:ca
REPORTER

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From Guatemala

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President Arbenz appeared on the balcony of the Palace with high Government officials and Fortuny, Secretary General of the Guatemalan Communist party, PGT. In an impromptu address, he claimed a "great moral victory" for Guatemala at Caracas and said that the Guatemalan delegates had defeated the "feudal and imperialist forces which had unfurled the banner of anti-Communism to maintain the oppression of the Latin American peoples."

Diplomatic Relations With Venezuela Renewed: Prior to Toriello's return, the Foreign Ministry on March 29 announced that Venezuela and Guatemala had agreed to resume diplomatic relations. They had been broken off in 1948 under the Arévalo Administration which would not recognize Venezuela's military regime. The Foreign Ministry claimed that the reason for resumption of relations at this time was the expressions of sympathy which the Guatemalan delegation received in Caracas.

New Costa Rican Ambassador: The Foreign Ministry also announced it had given its agreement to the appointment of José Pablo QUIROS Quiros as the new Costa Rican Ambassador. The post has been vacant since June, 1953, when the previous Ambassador left Guatemala after President ULATE of Costa Rica became angry because Guatemala publicly repudiated an "invitation" for him to visit this country.

DOMESTIC AFFAIRS

PAR Temporarily Composes Differences: The Congress of the Partido Acción Revolucionaria (PAR) took place without incident on March 26-28 and reelected Julio Estrada de la Hoz as Secretary General at the head of a "unity" slate of officers. The three months' suspension of five deputies who had voted against the party slate in the March 1 elections of officers of Congress was cancelled and several dissidents were given posts on the new Executive Committee. However, Francisco Fernando FERNANDEZ Foncea and the four other expelled deputies did not rejoin the party.

The Congress was principally a personal victory for Humberto González Juárez, who evidently had the President's backing. He skillfully organized the Congress, and his slate of officers--with himself as Secretary for Organization--was elected. As he is the President's Private Secretary, it would appear that President Arbenz wishes to keep control of the PAR through him and to avoid the grouping of factions around various political and military leaders who are mentioned as presidential possibilities for the 1956 elections.

FOR THE AMBASSADOR:

cc: CA Missions & Routine

William L. Krieg
Counselor of Embassy

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